



EVEN OUR FAITH."

Monthly Letter.

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A YEAR.

Subject for Prayer and Study for the Month:

"The Stranger Within Our Gates."

Japan.

From Miss Veazey, Ei-wa Jo Gakko, Azabu, Tokyo.

THE past quarter, ending December 21st, has seen more changes than is usual in our numbers, the enrolment since September being ninety-eight, of whom thirteen were new pupils, but we closed with only ninety in actual attendance. A few were obliged to withdraw on account of sickness, but a larger number left through the persuasions of one of our former daily teachers, a Japanese, whom we were obliged to dismiss before the summer vacation.

This teacher opened a school in her own house near us, and by circulating damaging reports concerning our school, succeeded in drawing away quite a number of the newly entered daily students. None of the boarding pupils left, however, and our school will soon live down the ugly rumors, as it has done several times in the past.

Our boarding department is gradually filling up, and the new pupils are most of them from good families, some of them in our near neighborhood.

Our new school building was formally opened Nov. 1st, and both teachers and pupils greatly enjoy its comforts and conveniences.

We have had but one baptism this term, a former pupil, now assistant sewing teacher; but six of the younger girls have taken their stand as Christians, by entering class meeting, and we trust that in time they may all receive baptism.

The King's Daughters' School is doing nicely in the hands of Iinuma San, one of the Kofu girls, whose head would not permit her to finish the course there, but who makes a very efficient teacher for the Poor School and Sunday School. The numbers are smaller than formerly, being now restricted to girls' classes only. Twenty-eight have been enrolled for the term, with an average attendance of twenty-five.

WORK IN TOKYO.

From Miss Blackmore we learn that meetings are being held in twelve different places in Tokyo with an average attendance of seven. Three Bible women are at work, and there are nine children in the Orphanage.

SHIDZUOKA.

In the Shidzuoka school, out of an average attendance of forty, twenty are attending class and twelve are members of the Normal Class for Sunday School teachers. Eight meetings have been held in factories, besides seventy-two regular women's meetings.

KOFU.

Miss Robertson writes from Kofu. "The usual meetings have been well attended, especially the Temperance meeting held once a month. At the daily Bible lesson we are glad to notice special interest on the part of several girls, while the few who show a somewhat indifferent spirit will probably become more interested as the days go by. We have no baptism to report, though one girl obtained the consent of her parents to be baptized shortly before school closed. We are looking forward to the event for next term."

As to the Evangelistic work in Kofu, Miss Washington says. "In October we opened meetings in another large silk factory. All the silk factories but one closed in November,—that one in December. The cotton factory in which we hold meetings is open throughout the year.

"Mrs. Yoshii, our new Bible woman, with a little more help and experience, will become a very good worker. Children's Sunday meetings have been held as usual in seven different places in the city, with a good attendance. About two hundred little ones gathered at their Christmas entertainment in our school rooms, and enjoyed themselves very much.

"Five women have received baptism. Most of our work throughout the whole term has been very encouraging indeed."

From Miss Wight, Nagano, Jan. 23rd, 1901.

As it devolves upon me to write the January letter, I thought it might be interesting to the home friends to hear of some of the difficulties in the way of those around us who are trying to follow Christ. When we learn how nobly these difficulties are met by both old and young, we thank God and take courage.

You know that our six little girl boarders attend the Government school for their Japanese lessons. They are there made the subject of many unpleasant remarks because they live in a Christian school.

When school closes on Saturday, the teachers often give their classes extra work to be done on Sunday; and, of course, when our girls appear on Monday without this work done, it makes "the Christians," appear in a very bad light, but they bear it very bravely. We try especially in our little "family talk" Sunday evenings, to give them food that will make them really strong little witnesses always for Him whom they are trying to serve. One of them stood first in her class last spring, and we believe their influence is being felt in the school. Two of their teachers surprised us not long ago by advising their pupils to attend Sunday School, and they themselves have attended church quite regularly since that time.

Oh! this work among the children is a grand work. To look into their faces as they assemble for a meeting; to try to imagine what sorrow has already come, and is still coming day by day into their young lives, and to think of their being entirely cut off from Christian influences in most cases for six days and twenty-three hours out of every week, makes one feel that to preach Jesus Christ is the highest privilege one could wish. And it does our hearts good to know that those in the home land, the mothers and fathers and the children, are working and praying together with us for the enlightenment of those who are in such great darkness. The work grows dearer day by day, and the thought of leaving it so soon even for a year's rest, is sometimes a very unpleasant one. But the Master will continue the work though the workers may be far away, and we trust Him for all things.

From Miss Howie, Azabu, Tokyo, Japan, Feb. 11th, 1901.

It is now five months since we landed in Japan, and during that time everything has tended to give me a favorable impression of the country.

As we steamed into Yokohama harbor and dropped anchor, we looked with curious interest at the fleet of small boats that swarmed around us, filled with dusky natives, who shouted in an unknown tongue, and exhibited strange wares for us to buy. But when we heard ourselves addressed in a familiar tongue by those who had come to meet us, we forgot all about the busy throng with their strange cries, and saw only our friends and heard only their words of welcome.

After attending to our baggage we took the train for Tokyo. Misses Laing, Forrest and myself were taken to the Girls' School in Azabu. We found that our ladies had moved into the building just a few days before, so that a nice, new home awaited us.

Shortly after we came school opened, and then my regular work of teaching and studying commenced. All my teaching is done in English, and to the advanced classes who understand English very well. I enjoy my work with the girls and find them earnest and careful students. Of course in my present work I see the Japanese girl as she is after she has been under Christian training for several years, but as I see her she impresses me as comparing very favorably with her Canadian sisters. At first they all looked alike to me, and my attempts at pronouncing their names proved a never failing source of amusement to them. I think they honestly tried to conceal their feelings, and on the whole succeeded very well, but in spite of their low bows and sober faces I instinctively felt that they were amused. However, my ear and my eye have both been trained somewhat, so that now I wonder why I ever thought the girls looked alike, and many of their names come quite naturally to me.

We have nearly one hundred pupils in the school this year, and about one-third are Christians. Last month twelve expressed a desire to become Christians. We believe that the